

SUBCHAPTER D—SOCIOECONOMIC PROGRAMS

PART 719—SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS

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719.273 The U.S. Agency for International Development Mentor-Protégé Program.

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Subpart 719.2—Policies

719.270 Small business policies.

(a) In keeping with section 602 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2352), as amended, USAID shall, insofar as practicable and to the maximum extent consistent with the accomplishment of the purposes of said Act, assist United States small business to participate equitably in the fur-

nishing of supplies and services for Foreign Assistance activities.

(b) It is the policy of USAID to:

(1) Fully endorse and carry out the Government's small business program for placing a fair proportion of its purchases and contracts for supplies, construction (including maintenance and repair), research and development, and services (including personal, professional, and technical services) with small business, including minority small business concerns; and

(2) Increase their participation in USAID procurement.

(c) In furtherance of this policy:

(1) Cognizant technical officers shall make positive efforts (see 719.271-5) to identify potentially qualified small and minority business firms during precontract development of activities and shall, with the responsible contracting officers, assure that such firms are given full opportunity to participate equitably;

(2) Small business set-asides shall be made for all contracts to be executed in USAID/Washington which qualify for small business set-aside action under Part 19 of the FAR; and

(3) Consideration shall be given in appropriate cases to the award of the contract to the Small Business Administration for subcontracting to small business firms pursuant to section 8(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(a)).

(d) This program shall be implemented by all USAID/Washington contracting activities in order to attain these policy objectives. In accordance with 719.271, all USAID/Washington direct-procurement requirements which exceed the simplified acquisition threshold shall be screened for small business opportunities by the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (SDB) except those exempted by 719.271-6(a).

(e) Where practicable and desirable, small business and minority business enterprise award goals will be established for the respective USAID/Washington procuring activities to provide incentive for contracting personnel to increase awards to small firms. The

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goals will be set by SDB after consultation with the respective head of the contracting activity (see subsection 702.170-10).

(f) In the event of a disagreement between SDB and the contracting officer concerning: (1) A recommended set-aside, or (2) a request for modification or withdrawal of a class or individual set-aside, complete documentation of the case including the reasons for disagreement shall be transmitted within five working days to the head of the contracting activity (see 719.271-6(e)) for a decision. Procurement action shall be suspended pending a decision.

(g) The above suspension shall not apply where the contracting officer:

(1) Certifies in writing, with supporting information, that in order to protect the public interest award must be made without delay;

(2) Promptly provides a copy of said certification to SDB; and

(3) Includes a copy of the certification in the contract file.

(h) SDB shall be the Small Business Advisor and Minority Business Procurement Policy Manager for all USAID/Washington procuring activities.

(i) The details on the Agency's direction and operation of the small business program are set forth in 719.271.

(j) No decision rendered, or action taken, under the coverage set forth in 719.271 shall preclude the Small Business Administration from appealing directly to the USAID Administrator as provided for in part 19 of the FAR.

[49 FR 13243, Apr. 3, 1984, as amended at 52 FR 21058, June 4, 1987; 56 FR 67224, Dec. 30, 1991; 61 FR 39092, July 26, 1996; 62 FR 40468, July 29, 1997]

719.271 Agency program direction and operation.

719.271-1 General.

The purpose of this section is to prescribe responsibilities and procedures for carrying out the small business program policy set forth in 219.270, and in part 19 of the FAR. Small Business concerns are defined in FAR subpart 19.1; in addition, small business concerns are concerns organized for profit. Nonprofit organizations are not considered small business concerns. Small

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disadvantaged business enterprises are defined in FAR subpart 19.1. Small disadvantaged business enterprises are included in the term "small business" when used in this subpart; specific reference to disadvantaged business enterprises is for added emphasis.

719.271-2 The USAID Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (SDB).

(a) SDB is responsible for administering, implementing, and coordinating the Agency's small business (including minority business enterprises) program.

(b) SDB, headed by the Director SDB, who also serves as the Minority Business Procurement Manager, shall be specifically responsible for:

(1) Developing policies, plans, and procedures for a coordinated Agency-wide small business and minority business enterprise procurement program;

(2) Advising and consulting regularly with USAID/Washington procuring activities on all phases of their small business program, including, where practicable and desirable, the establishment of small business and minority business enterprise award goals;

(3) Collaborating with officials of the Small Business Administration (SBA), other Government Agencies, and private organizations on matters affecting the Agency's small business program;

(4) Developing and maintaining an USAID Consultant Registry Information System (ACRIS) of bidders/offerors (annotated to identify small business and minority business enterprise firms) capable of furnishing services for use by the USAID contracting activities;

(5) Cooperating with contracting officers in administering the performance of contractors subject to the Small Business and Minority Business Enterprises Subcontracting Program clauses;

(6) Developing a plan of operation designed to increase the share of contracts awarded to small business concerns, including small minority business enterprises;

(7) Establishing small business class set-aside for types and classes of items of services where appropriate;